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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 4215
RUDKRB/AMEMBASSY BELGRADE 338
RUDKAR/AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST 365
RUFHEB/AMEMBASSY BERLIN 337
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 355
RUDKRP/AMEMBASSY PRAGUE 399
RUDKSA/AMEMBASSY SOFIA 335
RUDKRW/AMEMBASSY WARSAW 362
RUEHVI/AMEMBASSY VIENNA 2126
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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUDAPEST 4791

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: PREL, US, HU

SUBJECT: PROVOCATIVE ARTICLE ON BEIRUT BOMBING

1. THE PARTY DAILY NEPSZABADSAG ON JUNE 3, CARRIED AN ARTICLE ENTITLED FORTRESSES WHICH ALLEGEDLY DESCRIBED THE STEPS TAKEN BY AMERICAN EMBASSIES AROUND THE WORLD TO IMPROVE SECURITY AGAINST TERRORISM. IT CHARGED, HOWEVER, THAT THE SECURITY STEPS WERE MAINLY A RESULT OF US POLICIES IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

2. MORE SERIOUSLY, HOWEVER, THE ARTICLE MENTIONED THE MARCH BOMBING OF THE SHIITES IN BEIRUT STATING "ACCORDING TO DISCLOSURES IN THE AMERICAN PRESS, A NEW COUNTER-MEASURE AGAINST 'SHIITE TERRORISM' HAS BEEN INVENTED. IT IS CALLED 'PREVENTIVE SELF DEFENSE.' CIA AGENTS HIRED AND TRAINED AN ANTI-TERRORIST GROUP WHICH MADE A TERRORIST ACTION IN A DENSELY POPULATED SHIITE SUBURB IN BEIRUT EARLY MARCH. IT TOOK THE LIVES OF 80 PEOPLE. THE BOMB IN A CAR WAS FOR M.H. FADLALLAH, LEADER OF A SHIITE ORGANIZATION CALLED HISBOLLAH, WHO IS ACCUSED OF PLANNING ANTI-AMERICAN ATTEMPTS. HE ESCAPED THE MASSACRE UNHARMED. RELATIVES OF INNOCENT VICTIMS AND ORGANIZATIONS BEING IN SOLIDARITY WITH THEM KNEW AT THE FIRST MOMENT WHERE THE BOMB HAD COME FROM. THEIR INDICTMENT WAS PUT ON THE WALL OF A BUILDING THAT BURNED. 'DEATH TO THE US.'"

3. AT A RECEPTION JUNE 5, THE DCM APPROACHED THE FOREIGN EDITOR OF NAPSZABADSAG, JANOS ELEK, AND COMPLAINED THAT THE ARTICLE LEFT THE IMPRESSION THAT THE US HAD SUPPORTED THE KILLING OF THE 80 PEOPLE AND THAT THIS POSED A POTENTIAL THREAT TO THE SECURITY OF AMERICANS IN HUNGARY. ELEK SAID THAT HE REGRETTED THE WAY THE ARTICLE CAME OUT AND IN FACT THEY HAD DISCUSSED THE PROBLEM THAT DAY AT THE NEWSPAPER. HE MERELY SHRUGGED WHEN ASKED IF THEY WOULD PRINT A RETRACTION.

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4. ACTION REQUESTED: AT AN APPROPRIATE OCCASION WE SUGGEST
THAT THE DEPARTMENT INFORM THE HUNGARIAN EMBASSY THAT THIS
KIND OF REPORTING IS INADMISSIBLE FROM AN OFFICIAL PAPER,
PARTICULARLY DURING A PERIOD OF INCREASING TERRORIST ACTIVITIES.
SMITH
END OF MESSAGE

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